

## **REMARKS**

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 10-20 are pending in this application. Claims 10-12, 14-16 and 20 stand withdrawn. Claims 1 and 13 are the independent claims under consideration.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner asserted that the specification lacks an adequate written description of the feature wherein a reduction ratio is determined in advance so that a size of reconstructed watermark information is equal to or less than a size of the image corresponding to the second region. Those claims have been amended to clarify that a height and width of an image corresponding to the first region are reduced by  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and that a parameter for error-correction encoding watermark information generated based on the binarized reduced image is determined in advance so that a size of the error-correction encoded watermark information is equal to or less than the size of an image corresponding to the second region. Applicants submit that support for these features can be found in the original specification, for example, at least at page 31, line 15 through page 33, line 18. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No.2003/0012406 to Iwamura in view of U.S. Patent

Publication No. 2003/0009674 to Pelly et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,6968,072 to Tian and U.S.

Patent Publication No.2002-0064307 to Koga et al. . Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of reducing the height and width of an image corresponding to a first region by  $\frac{1}{2}$ , binarizing the reduced image, generating watermark information which contains the binary image and additional information, and generating error-correction encoded watermark information by using a parameter. Claim 1 further recites that the parameter is determined in advance so that a size of the error-correction encoded watermark information is equal to or less than a size of an image corresponding to a second region. Due to these features, reconstructed watermark information can be embedded within the second region.

Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 1. In particular, the cited art, whether considered individually or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of generating error-correction encoded watermark information using a parameter, wherein the parameter is determined in advance so that a size of the error-correction encoded watermark information is equal to or less than the size of an image corresponding to the second region.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record. Independent Claim 13 recites features similar to those of Claim 1 discussed above and is patentable for reasons similar to Claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants  
Brian L. Klock  
Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200  
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